

REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to recite before the first line the sentence: --This is a continuation of Application No. 09/819,790 filed March 29, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference--.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a step of calcining a titanium compound --while the titanium compound is in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination, after the titanium compound has come in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination, or both while the titanium compound is in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination and after the titanium compound has come in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination--, and --wherein the compound which generates ammonia in calcination is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ammonium solution, an ammonium compound, an urea and titanium-containing ammonium compound--. These amendments are supported by the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 15-18, page 7, line 22-page 8, line 4, and Examples. Applicants note that on page 6, lines 15-18, titanium hydroxide instead of a titanium compound is referred. However, as described in the specification, titanium hydroxide is one of the examples of the titanium compound.

Claim 8 has been amended to delete the recitation of "ammonia".

Claims 4, 5 and 8-10 have been amended to change dependency.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error, by replacing "bibrous" with --fibrous--.

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claims 11-18 have been added as new claims. Claims 11 and 12 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 15-18 and Examples. Claim 13 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 8-9. Claims 14-16 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 8-10. Claim 16 is further supported by the specification at, for example, page 15, lines 5-6 and Examples 1, 2 and 4-6. Claim 17 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 6, line 21-page 7, line 1. Claim 18 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 13-16.

No new matter has been added and thus, entry of the Preliminary Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-18 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Fang Liu
Registration No. 51,283

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Please insert before the first line the sentence:

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/819,790 filed March 29, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3 is canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide which comprises

(i) a step of calcining a titanium compound in the presence of ammonia gas while the titanium compound is in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination, after the titanium compound has come in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination, or both while the titanium compound is in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination and after the titanium compound has come in contact with a compound which generates ammonia in calcination, or

(ii) steps of treating a titanium compound with heat in the presence of ammonia gas and calcining the heat-treated titanium compound,

wherein the compound which generates ammonia in calcination is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ammonium solution, an ammonium compound, an urea and titanium-containing ammonium compound.

4. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the calcination is conducted at a temperature of from about 300°C to about 600°C.

5. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the titanium oxide has an amorphous phase.

7. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide according to claim 2 or 6, wherein the titanium compound to be treated with heat has a ~~fibrous~~-fibrous shape.

8. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide according to ~~claim 3~~ 1, wherein the compound which generates ammonia in calcination is ~~ammonia or the~~ ammonia solution.

9. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide according to ~~claim 3~~ 1, wherein the compound which generates ammonia in calcination is the ammonium compound.

10. (amended) A process for producing a titanium oxide according to ~~claim 3~~ 1, wherein the titanium hydroxide is allowed to come in contact with the a compound which generates ammonia in calcination in amount of from about 0.1 % by weight to about 10 % by weight in terms of nitrogen atom in the ammonia-generating compound based on the titanium hydroxide substantially containing no water.

Claims 11-18 are added as new claims.